

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A ceramic filter comprising:  
  
honeycomb segments bonded together, being partitioned by porous walls, and having vents for exhaust gas to flow therethrough from an inlet to an outlet in a longitudinal direction, wherein  
  
each of the honeycomb segments includes first vents and second vents alternately placed,  
  
the first vents are filled at the inlet and are open at the outlet,  
  
the second vents are open at the inlet and are filled at the outlet,  
  
each of the honeycomb segments has at the inlet an end surface having a central portion and a peripheral portion enclosing the central portion,  
  
the second vents in the central portion are additionally filled at the inlet,  
  
the central portion is larger in vent-filling percentage than the peripheral portion at the inlet,  
  
the central portion has an additional filling percentage set within a range of 0.1 to 3% to a total area of an end surface of each honeycomb segment at the inlet, and  
  
the additional filling percentage is set on the condition that increased percentage of pressure loss of the entire filter, due to increased amount of additional filling, is a predetermined value or less, and that decreased percentage of the maximum temperature during burning of soot accumulated in the filter is a predetermined value or more.
- 2-5. (Canceled)